

prince, who listened to his words and
 placed him
 before the monks and priests of his
 court, by reason
 of which the people of that country
 whispered
 that the King was a Mussulman. One
 day while
 the King was seated in an open terrace
 from which
 the sea was in full view, there
 appeared on the
 horizon a small barque which brought
 news that
 the army of the King had entered the
 Moslem
 territory and won a victory. The
 Mussulman
 seated by the King's side paid no
 attention. The
 King then, turning to him, said, "Thou"
 (calling
 him by name), "hast thou not heard
 the news?"
 And he said "No." Then said the
 King, "They
 say this and this. Where then was
 Mohammed-
 he had perchance forgotten that
 country and its
 inhabitants?" And the Mussulman said
 to him,
 "Yes, he was far away; he was
 assisting at the
 taking of Edessa, which this very
 moment has been
 captured by the Moslems." Some
 Franks who
 were present made mock of him, but
 the King
 said to them, "There is nothing to smile
 at here, by
 God. What that man says is always
 true." And
 after some days there arrived letters
 from the
 Franks of Syria which announced the
 capture of
 Edessa.

Some fragments remain .of the odes

with which
Arab poets eulogised the King, his
sons, and his
splendour, pitched in the note of
Oriental imagery;
it is not recorded whether Roger, like
his son and
grandson, understood Arabic, but it may
be assumed
that he was able to listen with
pleasure to these